

Michigan Department of Agriculture Drinking Water Well Screening Sample Collection Procedures

You do *not* need to use a special bottle for this screening. Any small, clean, leak-proof jar will work. Four (4) ounces of water is more than enough. Collect the sample no more than 1 day before you will drop it off. Please follow the instructions below when sampling your well.

1. Fill out the MDA Groundwater Monitoring Program Drinking Water Well Screening Sample Information Sheet.
2. Pick a tap that is not connected to any water treatment devices (water softener, carbon filter, etc). An outdoor faucet often works well.
3. Run the water for 10–15 minutes or more to flush the pipes and to make sure you are collecting a representative sample. Be careful not to touch the inside of the cap when handling the sample bottle. Fill the bottle completely. Cap the sample.
4. Label the bottle clearly with your name, the date, and the well name (cottage well, Mom's well, etc). Fold and wrap the Sample Information Sheet around the bottle, and put them both into a waterproof plastic bag.
5. Keep the sample dark and cold (on ice or refrigerated) until it is delivered to the screening event.

Please be sure to fill out the Sample Information Sheet as thoroughly as possible. We need a complete mailing address to get your results back to you.

The results from your water sample are strictly confidential. You will be mailed a copy of your results and information about what to do if the concentration of nitrate is too high or if triazines are detected in the sample

You can get more information from your local Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program technician, your local MSU Extension Office, or by calling the MDA at (517) 373-6893, or by visiting the MDA Website at www.michigan.gov.

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